

Nine-Year Mystery Surrounds Ash Road

BY TERRY POPE

One controversial road name was not among the 30 approved by Brunswick County Commissioners Monday.

It has Ash residents and county officials trying to sort through a nine-year mystery.

Despite action by commissioners in 1983, the name of the disputed road was never officially changed from Warren Road to Virginia Road in N.C. Department of Transportation logs as residents were led to believe.

An heir property division recently revealed the problem, said Planning Director John Harvey. County signs posted at the entrance label the byway Virginia Road.

"I really don't know why there's a question when there's been a sign up there for nine years," said Tina Smith. "I think it's obviously a computer error."

Ms. Smith said the road was named as a memorial to her mother. Others say the road was named Warren Road at a community meeting at Waccamaw School in 1981.

Such road name disputes are typical in Brunswick County as planners work to eliminate duplicate names in preparation for the 911 communications program that begins in April. All streets with two or more homes that do not have names must be given names.

Property owners along Virginia Road have been asked to petition the county again, indicating what they want the road to be called. District 1 Commissioner Kelly Holden said he wants the request to be updated to settle the dispute.

Roscoe Warren said he thought in 1981 that people would find it controversial to name the road after his family but agreed when the decision was made. Some of the names on a 1983 petition asking that it be changed to Virginia Road were not property owners, he claims.

"The Warren name was never stabilized," said Warren. "I could never understand why I had friends in the community that wanted to take that sign down."

He asked commissioners Monday to keep it the

Warren Road. The county's list had proposed changing it to Virginia Road, again.

Marion Warren, a Shallotte attorney, asked commissioners to table the matter until a new petition is presented.

"There apparently is something going on here that cannot be addressed immediately," said Warren. "However, do not exclude my father from the process."

Harvey said county tax maps show 23 people own property along the 3,200-foot road that intersects with N.C. 130 (Whiteville Highway).

Angela Smith said she moved back to Virginia Road two years ago to open a business. She questioned how the county could purchase and install the signs when it was never an official name.

"It's right on the pole above the Whiteville Highway sign," said Ms. Angela Smith. "I assume it got there the same way the Whiteville Highway sign got there."

Other Comments

Commissioners compromised Monday when naming a street near the Pearl Golf Links at Sunset Beach.

Part of a road that connects Old Georgetown Road and Sunset Lakes will be called Sunset Lakes Boulevard and the rest Pearl Boulevard.

Harvey said a "V", or sharp curve, in the highway would be the dividing line.

Property owners along the highway told county planners that the property owners association president did not speak on their behalf. The neighborhood had remained split over a name, said Harvey.

Also, Charles Hewett of Leland spoke in favor of changing Phelps Road (S.R. 1461) in Leland to the Hewett-Burton Road to honor his ancestors. Residents refer to the road as Old Mill Road, but there is already a road with that name in the community.

Residents became confused when the Old Mill Road sign was recently replaced with a Phelps Road sign, said Hewett.

"We signed some more petitions," said Hewett.

Hewett-Burton was one of the 30 road names approved by the board.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Singing With The Symphony

Shallotte Middle School music teacher Atheda Lusk-Watson (right) directs as Latisha Frink (left), Jennifer Barnes and a gymful of youngsters sing "Who's That Yonder?" accompanied by the North Carolina Symphony with Jana Hines directing. Earlier, Mrs. Lusk-Watson directed 125 fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Shallotte Middle and Waccamaw Elementary schools in playing the same song on recorder, melody bells and autoharp for the symphony. The symphony has two public concerts scheduled in Brunswick County this year, with subscriptions available.

DOT Targets Two Shallotte Roadways For Improvements

Improvements to the intersection of Main Street and Smith Avenue in Shallotte are on the agenda for funding when the State Board of Transportation meets Friday in Raleigh.

Staff is requesting \$3,000 to install channelization at the intersection. Smith Avenue is one of the access roads connecting Main Street to U.S. 17.

Another road on the same side of town will also see improvements. Lec Curry, the DOT county engineer, said a contract has already been awarded to MAC Construction Co. of Shallotte to widen N.C. 130 east from Main Street to the city limits to create a center turning lane. Work should begin this month and be completed before the tourist season begins in earnest, he indicated.

Three other urban projects in the county are on the state board agenda

for funding. These include widening of Ocean Drive (S.R. 1104) from the Yaupon Beach city limit 1.25 miles west, at a cost of \$50,000; draining improvements on Ocean Drive in Long Beach at 43rd Street, \$5,000; and improvement of the intersection of N.C. 133, S.R. 1100 (Fort Caswell Beach Road) and Ocean Drive in Yaupon Beach, \$30,000.

The board is also expected to increase funds allocated for two other projects. Another \$81,000 has been requested for construction of the rest area at the intersection of N.C. 130 West and U.S. 17. That is in addition to the \$1.4 million already approved.

Also, another \$503,000 is requested for construction on the relocation of U.S. 17 from southeast of Galloway Road (S.R. 1401) to the intersection of U.S. 17 north of Bolivia, the U.S. 17 bypass of Bolivia. Previously, \$5.8 million had

been approved for the work. The board meets Friday at 9 a.m. in Room 150 of the Highway Building in Raleigh.

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